

MARVEL
REMEMBERS



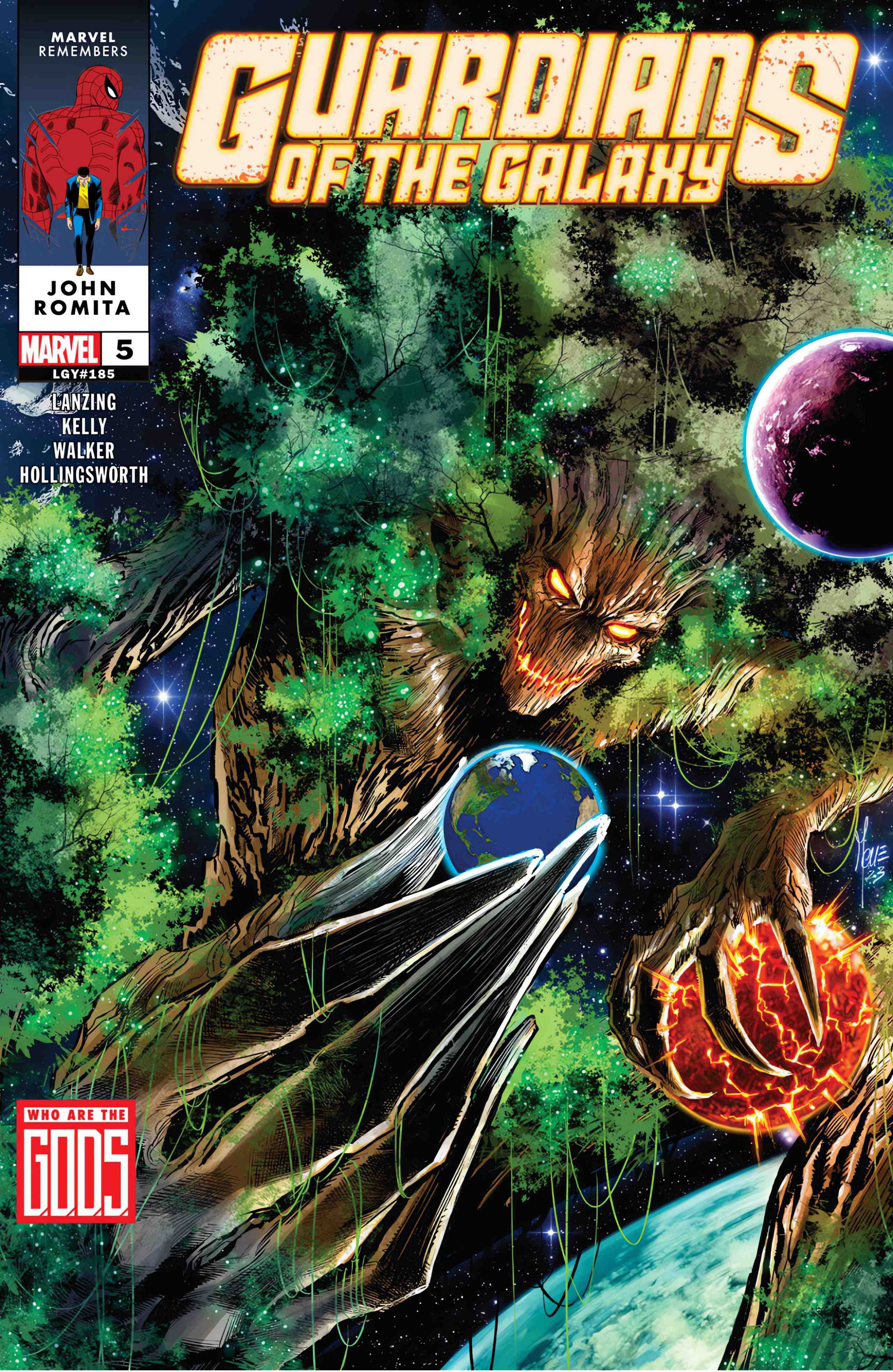
JOHN
ROMITA

MARVEL 5

LGY#185

LANZING
KELLY
WALKER
HOLLINGSWORTH

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY



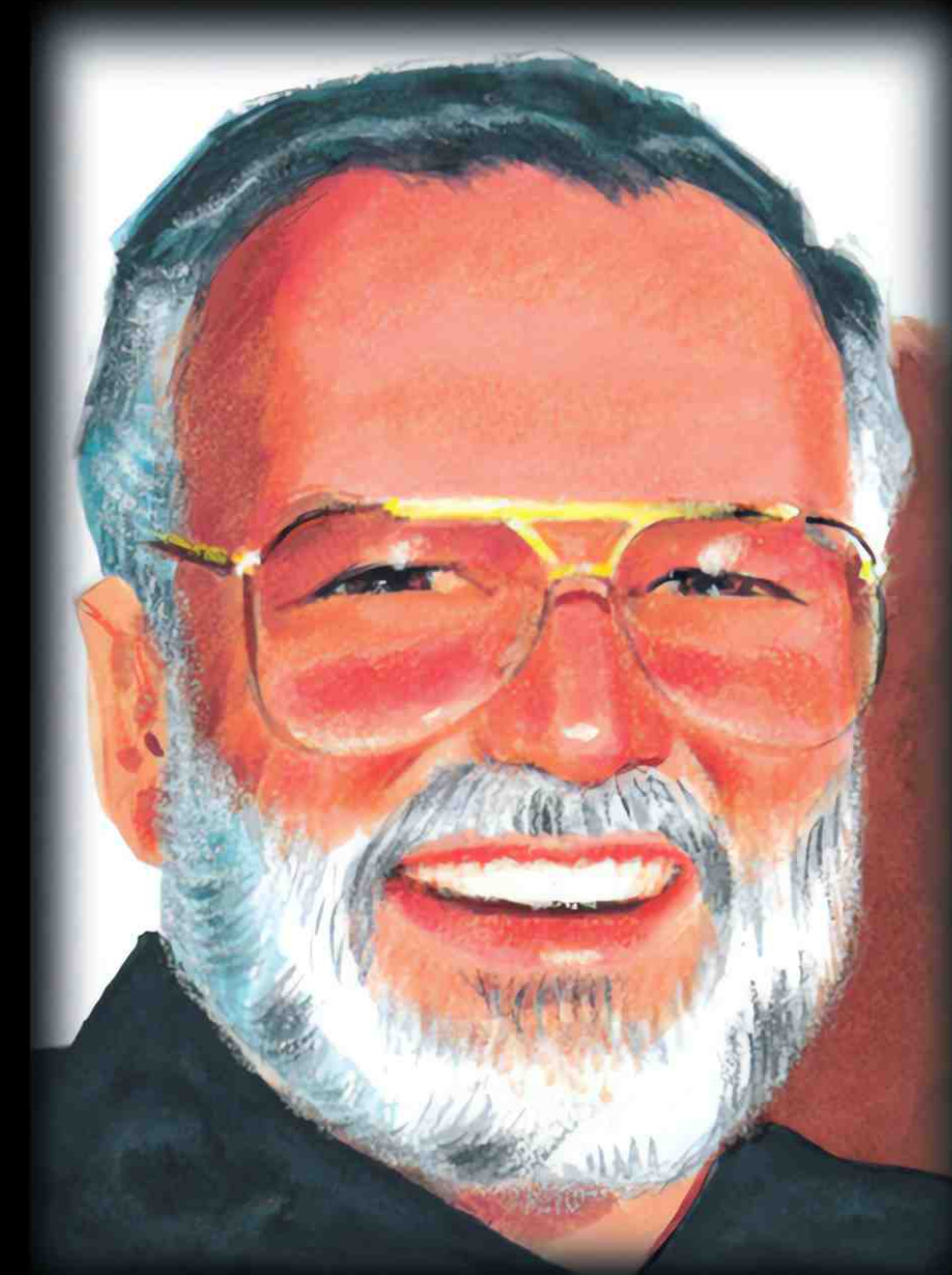
WHO ARE THE

GODS



John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew"

— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

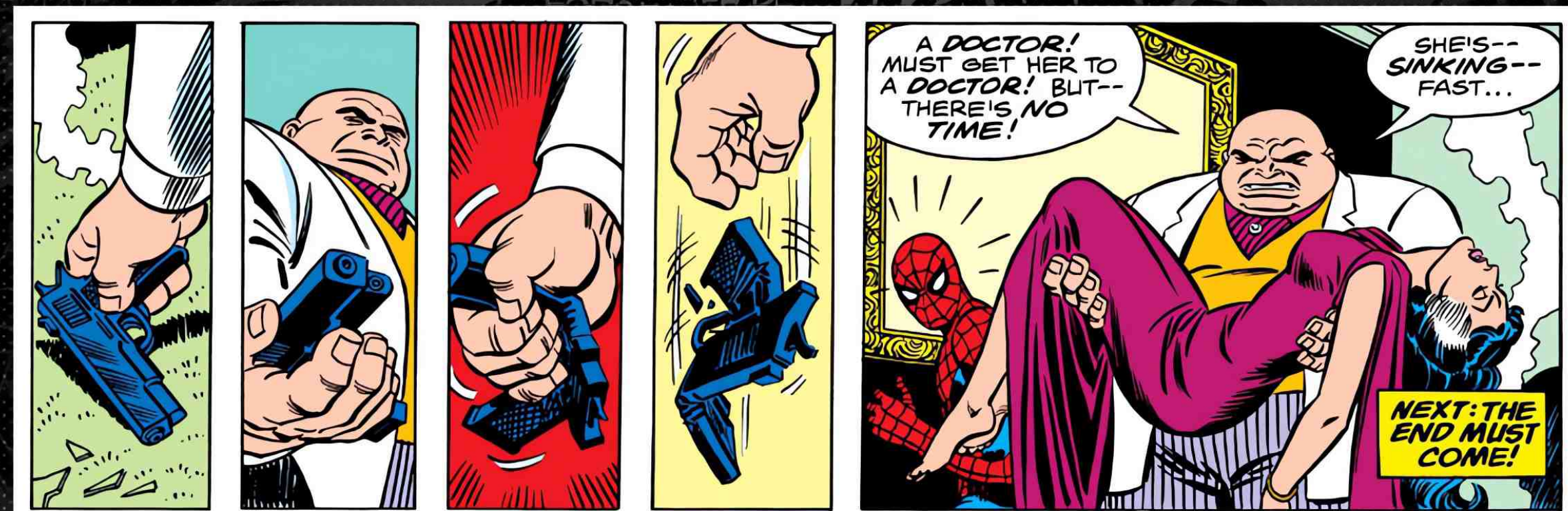
"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man* #39, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, 'lazy' John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #21, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

PREVIOUSLY...

The Guardians of the Galaxy were the heroes of outer space. But something happened to them one year ago that left them irrevocably changed.

Now what's left of the Guardians roams an area of space called the Manifold Territories, doing their best to save various societies from the terraforming asteroids known as Grootfall. That is, if the territorial war tearing the 'Fold apart doesn't destroy them first.

Peter Quill believes that there's still a way to communicate with his friend, alive somewhere within the Grootfall. But it requires the entire Guardians team, and it's not clear that a team is something they can be anymore...

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

IN “LAST STAND AT TORMENT PASS”

**COLLIN KELLY &
JACKSON LANZING**
WRITERS

KEV WALKER
ARTIST

MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
COLORS

VC's CORY PETIT
LETTERS

MARCO CHECCHETTO
COVER

**KYLE HOTZ & DAN BROWN;
LUCIANO VECCHIO; TODD NAUCK
& RACHELLE ROSENBERG**
VARIANT COVERS

JAY BOWEN
DESIGN

**NOAH SHARMA &
KAT GREGOROWICZ**
ASSISTANT EDITORS

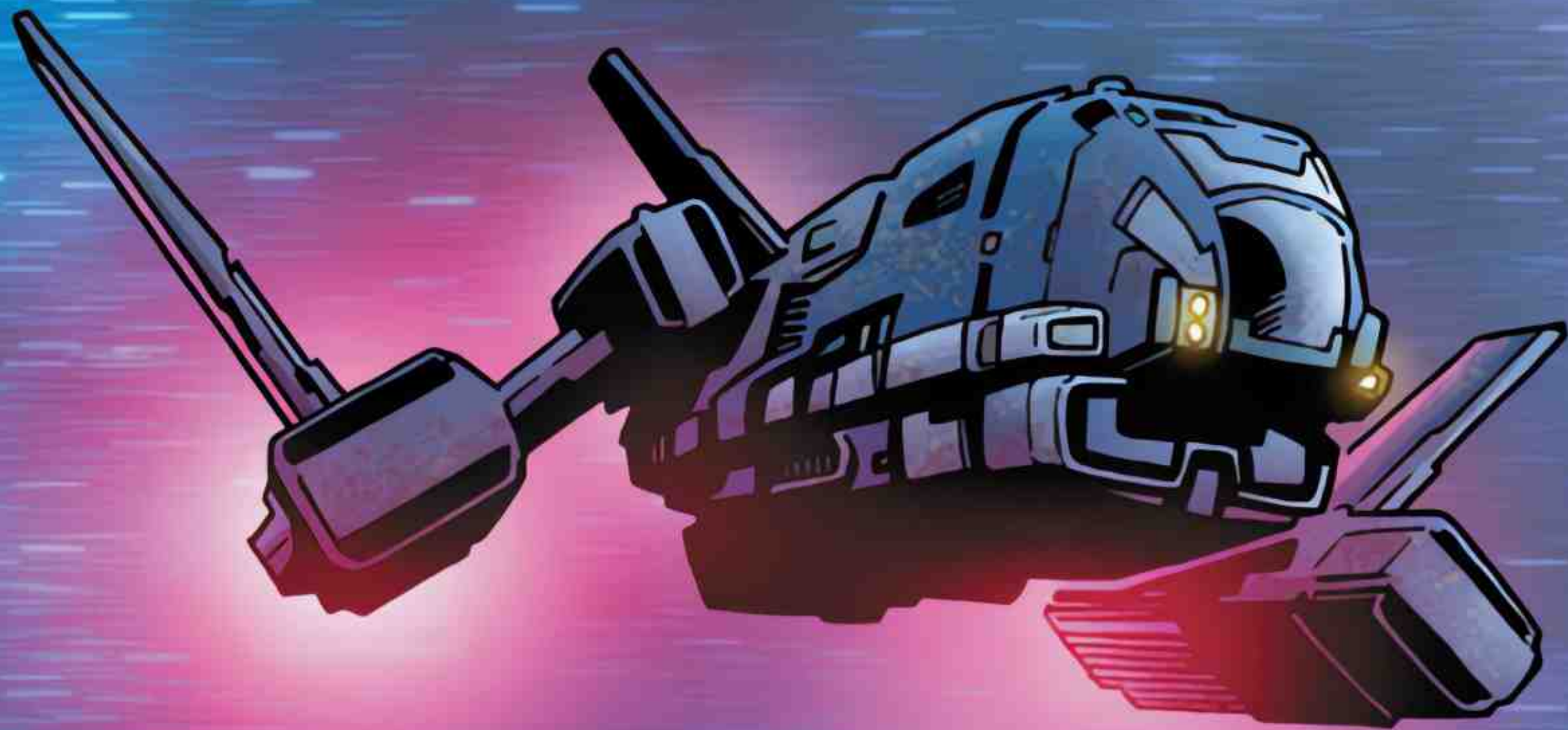
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C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

RECAP ART BY
KAEL NGU



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THEY WERE WELL
BEYOND THE END IN
THOSE DARK DAYS.



REUNITED
IN BODY...

...BUT NOT A
BIT IN SPIRIT.



THEIR JOURNEYS SEEMED OVER.
ONLY AN ENDLESS TRAIL OF
HALF VICTORIES AHEAD AND
GLORIOUS STORIES BEHIND.

THE GUARDIANS OF
THE GALAXY THOUGHT
THEMSELVES **LEGENDS**.



BUT WHAT
THEY WERE
WAS A FIRE.





GROOT'S DEAD!

HE'S DEAD, AND YOU FLARKIN' KNOW IT!



THOSE THINGS AIN'T GROOT, THEY'RE MONSTERS WHO WEAR HIS FACE, AND THEY AIN'T STOPPING FOR ANYTHING, QUILL!



SO I DON'T CARE WHAT THE MASTER OF THE SUN SAW IN HIS HOT-TUB MEDITATIONS OR WHATEVER, OKAY?!

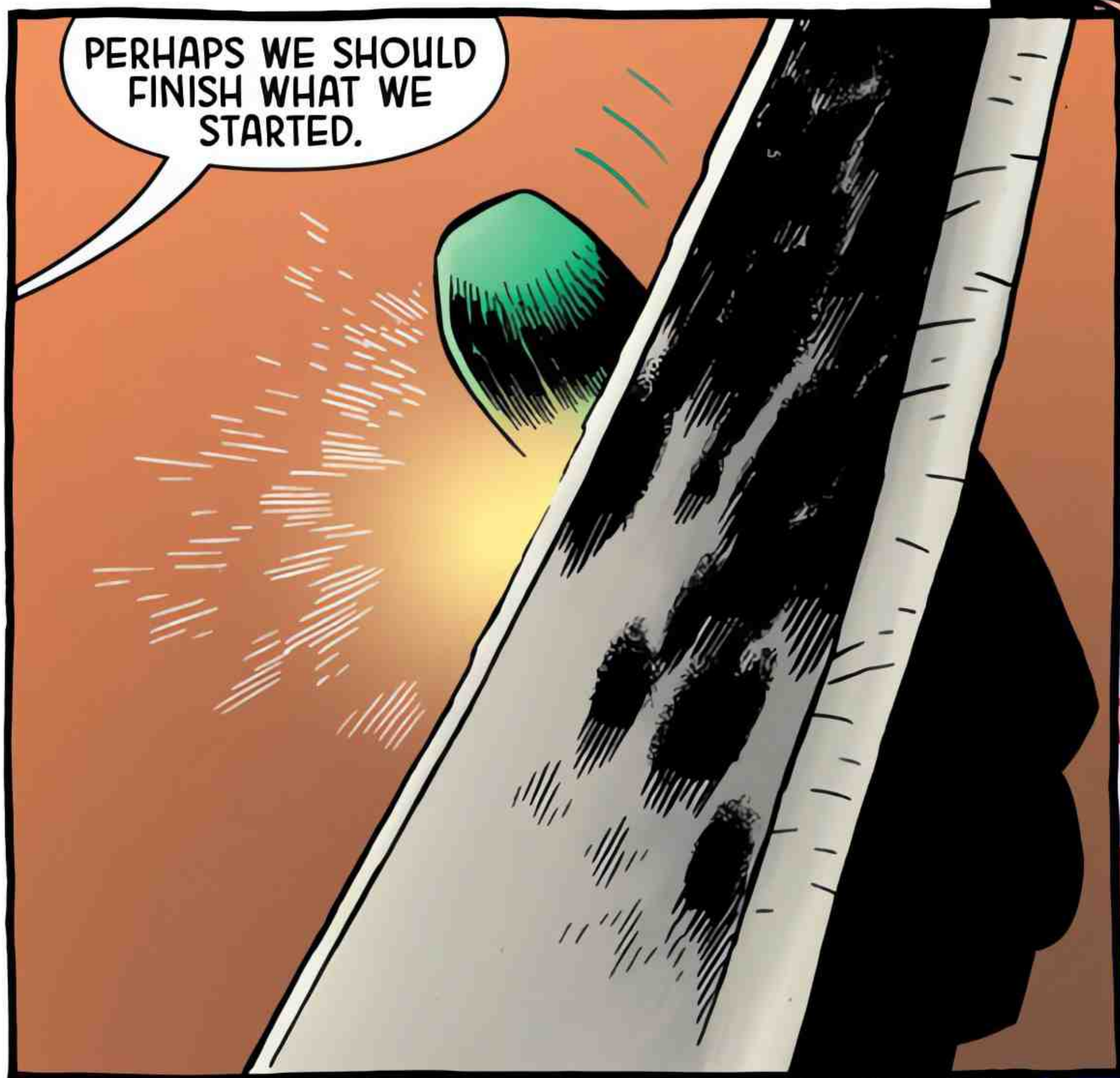


THEY CAN BE KILLED.

ROCKET HAS KILLED DOZENS. SO HAD THE SPARTOI, BEFORE PETER ENDED THEIR HUNT.

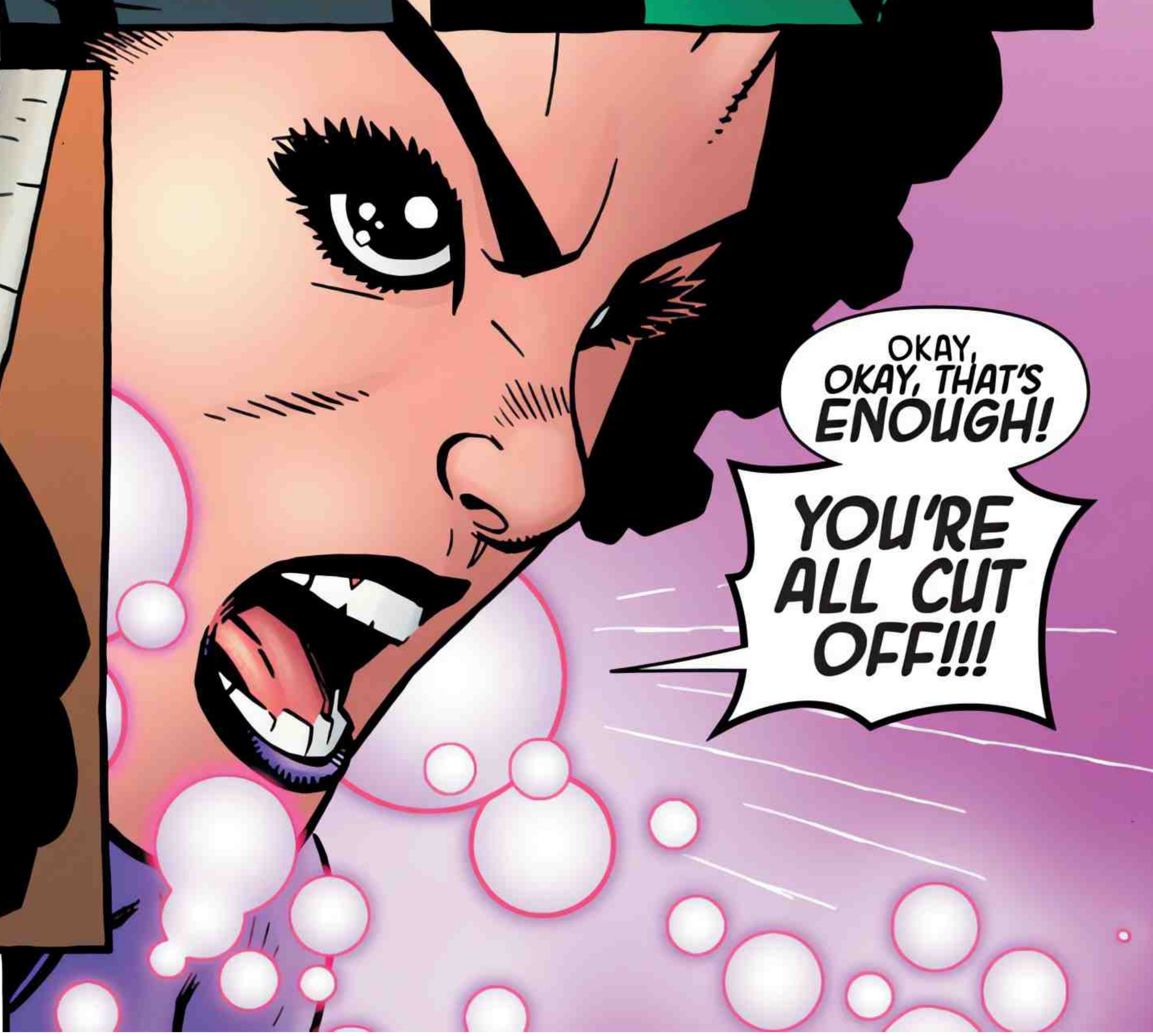


PERHAPS WE SHOULD FINISH WHAT WE STARTED.



OKAY, OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH!

YOU'RE ALL CUT OFF!!!

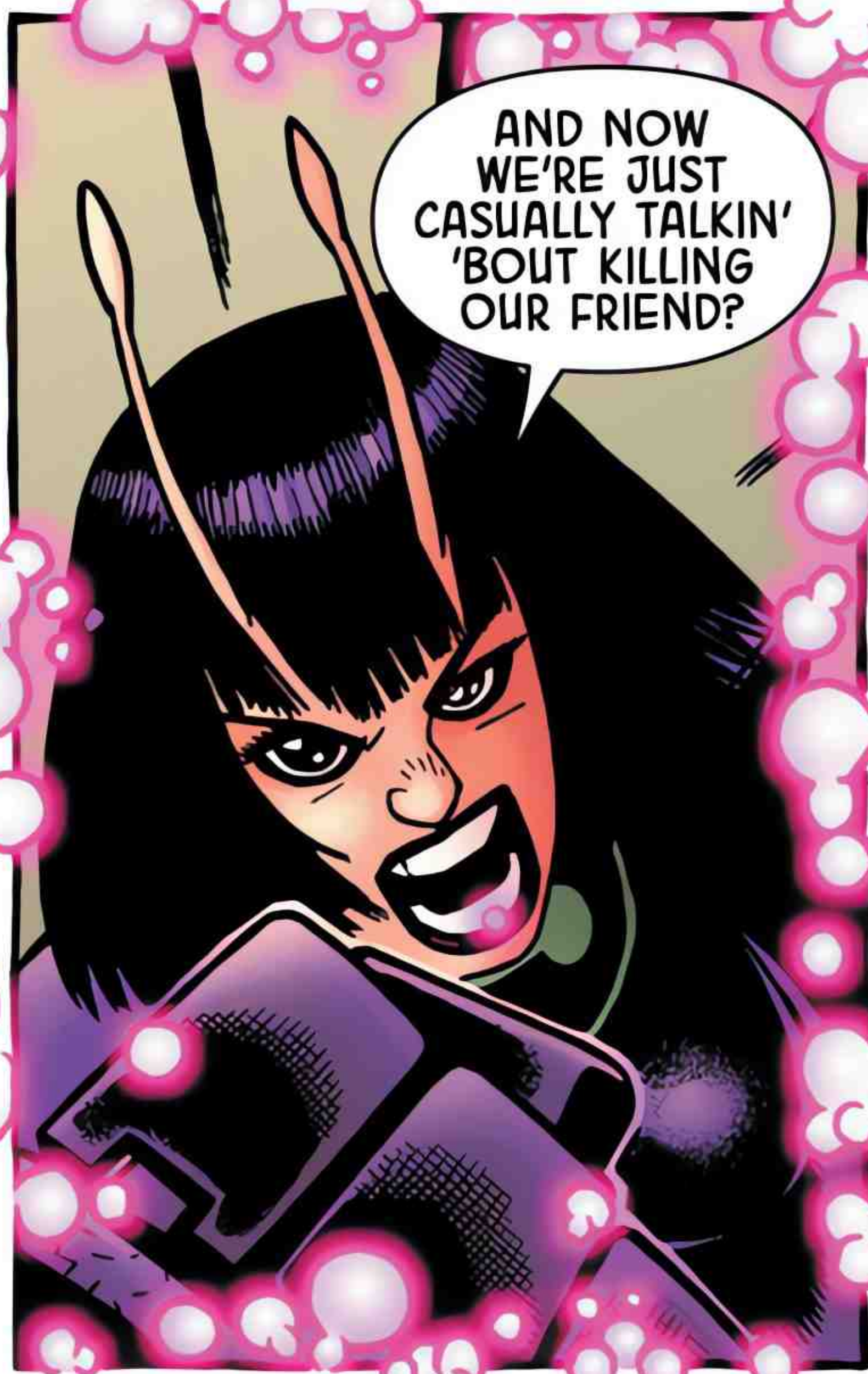




I MEAN,
GLORB,
Y'ALL!

REMEMBER
WHEN YOU WERE
SUPER HEROES?!

PEOPLE
TRUSTED US.
WE SET THEM
AT PEACE.



AND NOW
WE'RE JUST
CASUALLY TALKIN'
'BOUT KILLING
OUR FRIEND?



LOOK, PETER'S
BEEN WRONG *A LOT*,
BUT THIS ISN'T LIKE THAT
TIME HE GREW A
BEARD.

GROOT'S
TRYING TO TELL
US SOMETHING. HE
IS. BUT HE CAN'T SAY
IT TO JUST *ONE*
OF US.



IT'S
GOTTA
BE *ALL OF US*.

AND I LIKED
THE BEARD. FOR
THE RECORD.



PROBLEM
IZ, YOU ZEE,
NONE OF YOU
EVER WANT TO
ACTUALLY LOOK
ZE PROBLEM
IN ZE EYE.

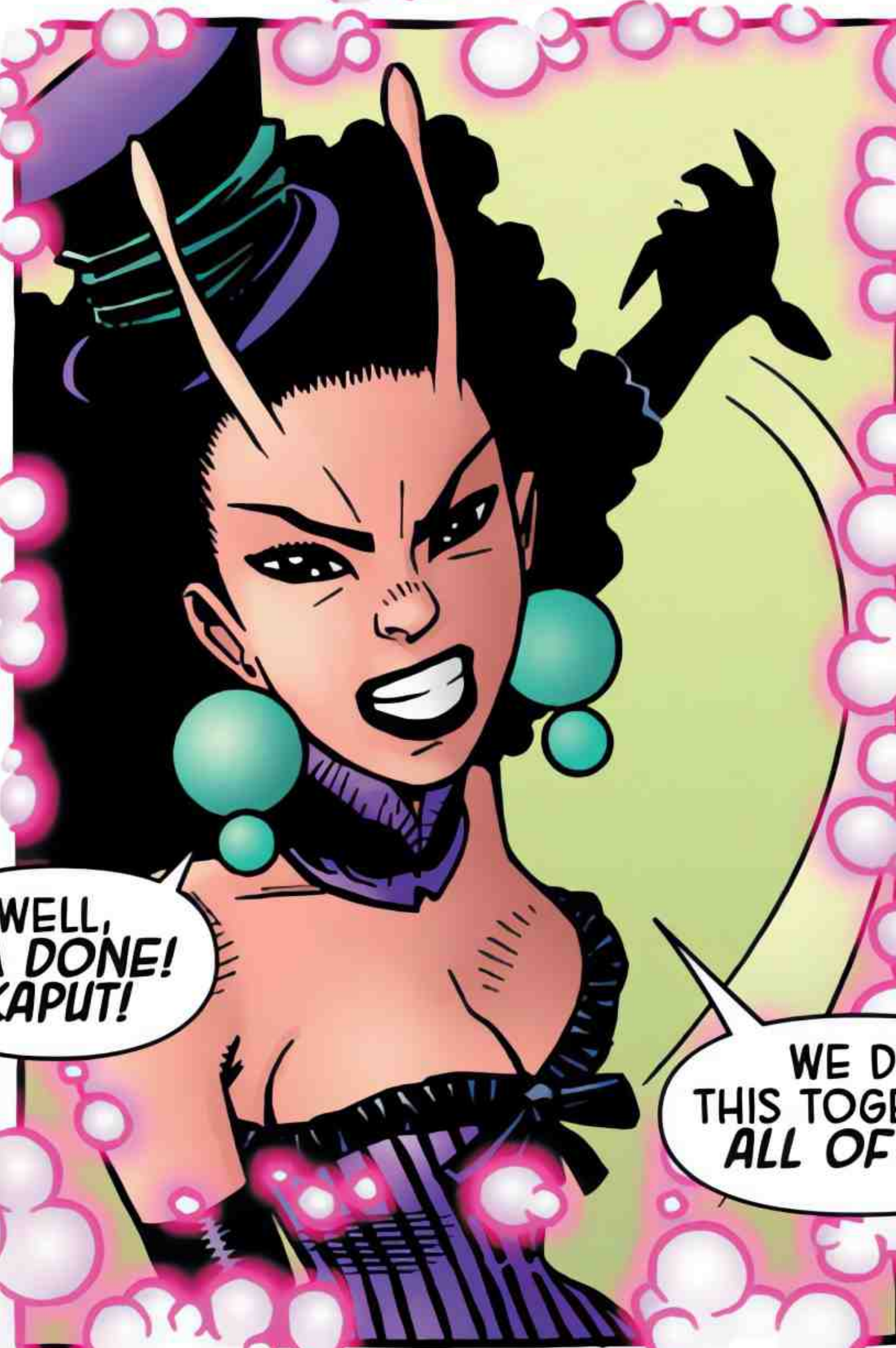
NONE OF
YOU WANT TO
SPEAK ABOUT ZE
PROSCENIUM.



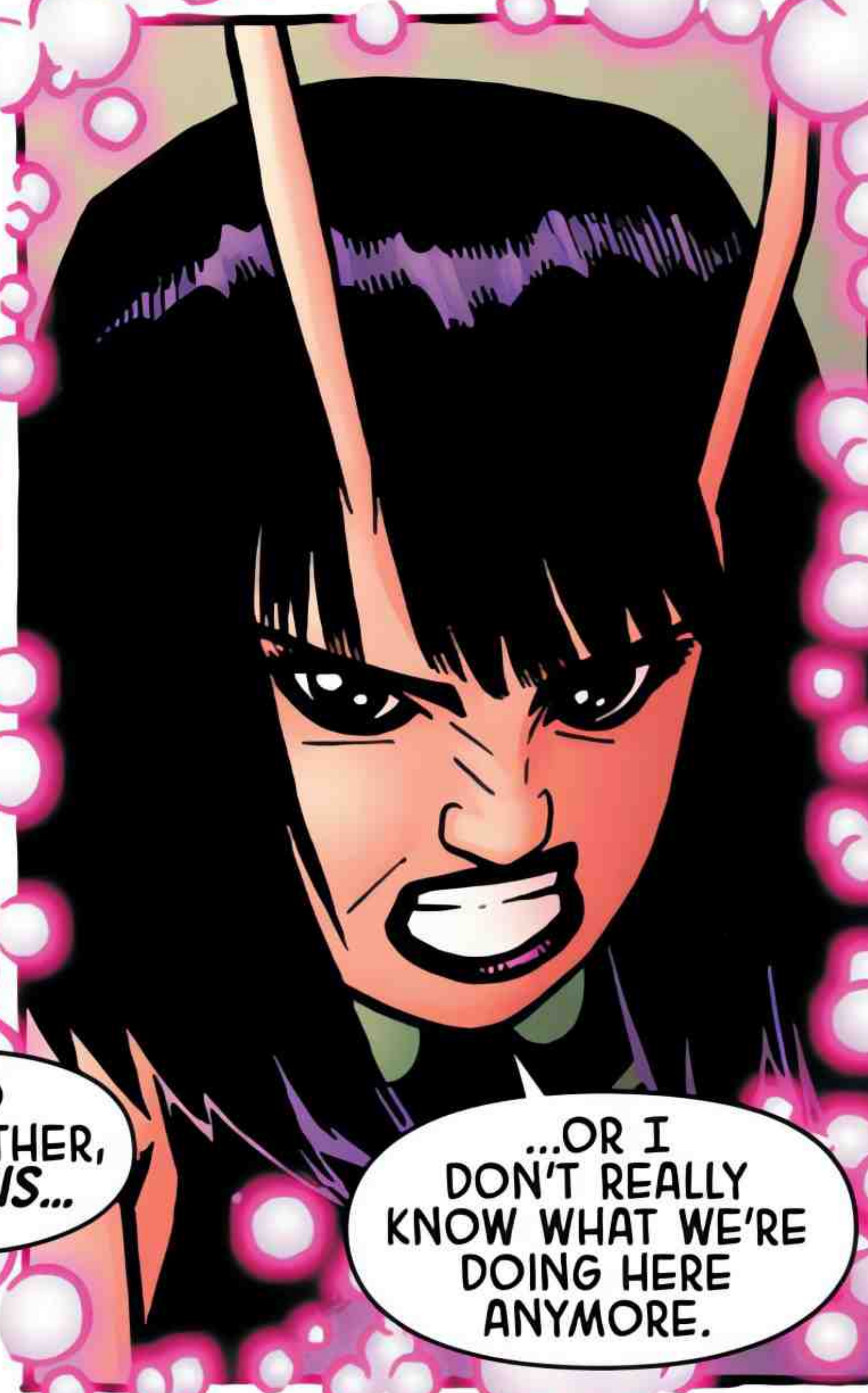
SO
INSTEAD, YOU
DRINK.

AND
SHOOT.

AND DRINK
AGAIN WHEN
THE SHOOTING'S
DONE.

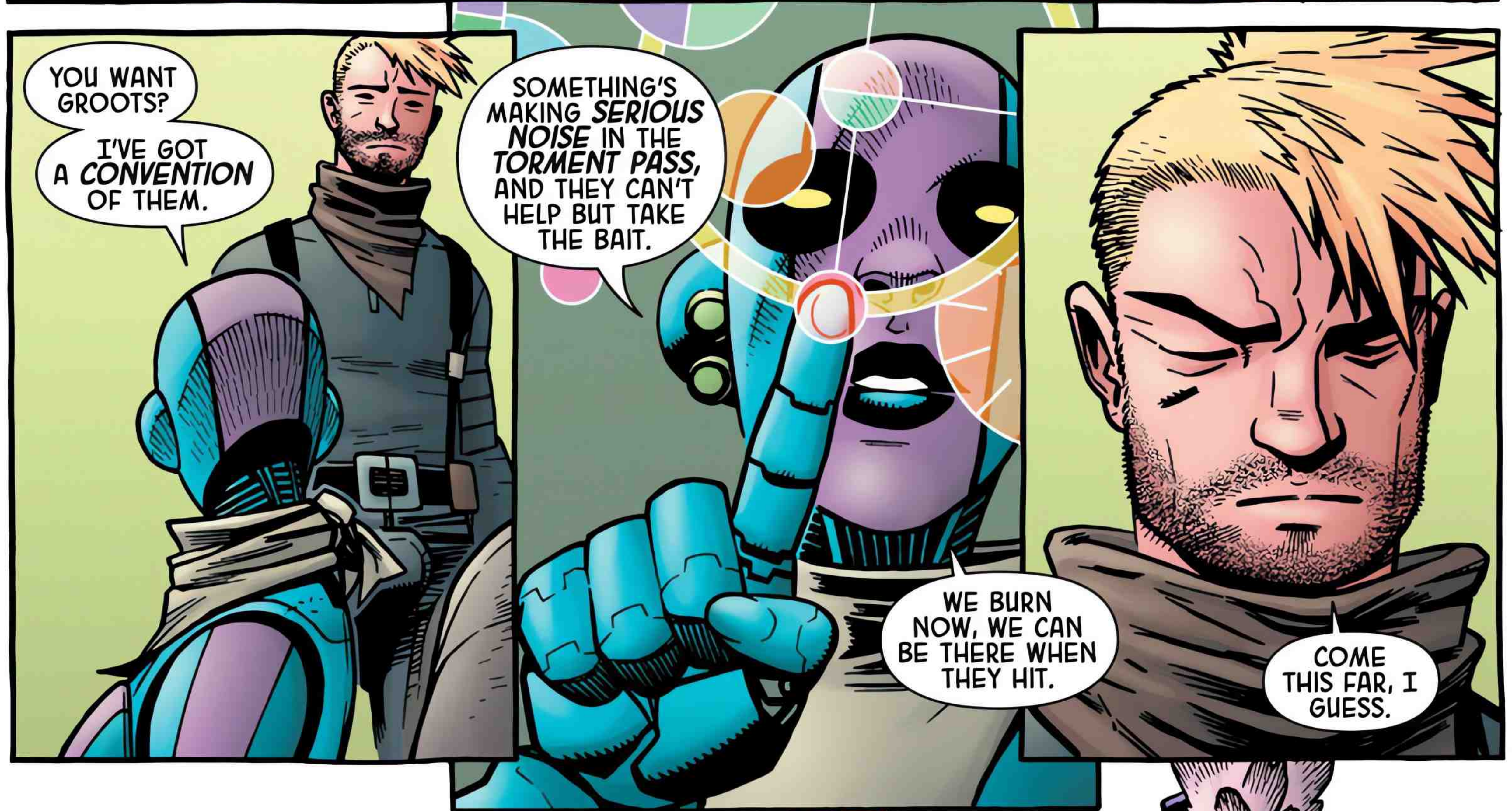
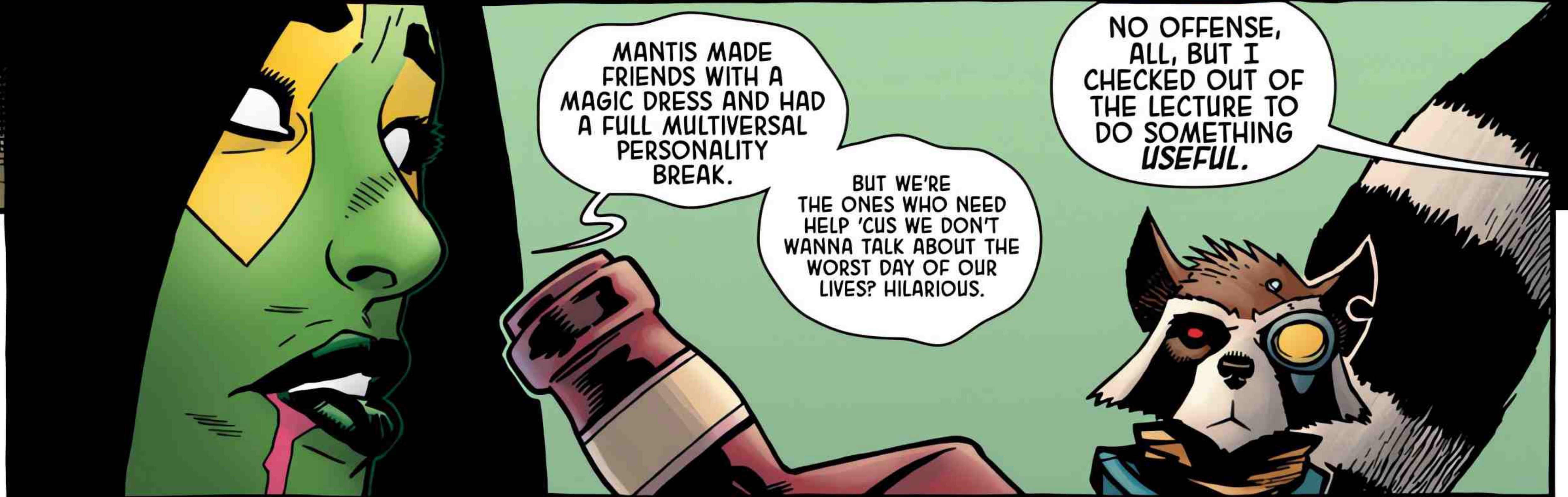


WELL,
I'M *DONE!*
KAPUT!



WE DO
THIS TOGETHER,
ALL OF US...

...OR I
DON'T REALLY
KNOW WHAT WE'RE
DOING HERE
ANYMORE.



'CEPT HERE'S
THE THING.

IT WEREN'T JUST
NOISE COMING FROM
THE TORMENT PASS.

STANDOFF HAD DESTROYED
ITSELF, AND WITH IT WENT
SECTORS UNITED'S ENTIRE
FRONT LINE. THEIR GENERALS
HAD BEEN FORCED TO TAKE...
DESPERATE MEASURES.

A CHARGE UNLIKE
ANY ATTEMPTED IN
GALACTIC HISTORY.

FOR DAMN
GOOD REASON.

EVERY LAST MEMBER OF THEIR
STELLAR CAVALRY, FROM **ROCKET
JOCKEYS** TO **SPACELANCERS**,
POURING ALL AT ONCE THROUGH
THE MOST **UNSTABLE TERRITORY**
IN THE WHOLE DAMN FOLD.

IN SUCCESS, THEY'D OUTFLANK
THE **WHITECAPS** AND TAKE THE
ENTIRE TERRITORY WITH AN
INFERIOR FORCE.

BUT THIS WAS
THE FOLD.

SUCCESS
CAME RARELY--
AND ONLY THEN
WITH CONDITIONS.

AND SO THE
GAMBIT BECAME
A **BATTLE**. AND
THOUGH NEITHER
SIDE KNEW IT YET...





KRAKEEN! TELL
ME YOU CAN HEAR
ME DOWN THERE!

QUILL! COME
TO DIE LIKE A
SOLDIER?!

SHUT THE HELL
UP AND LISTEN TO
ME. YOU HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT YOU'VE
DONE HERE!

I KNOW
WE'RE FINALLY
GETTING THIS
OVER WITH! I KNOW
THERE'S **WHITECAP**
BLOOD ON MY
SHELL!

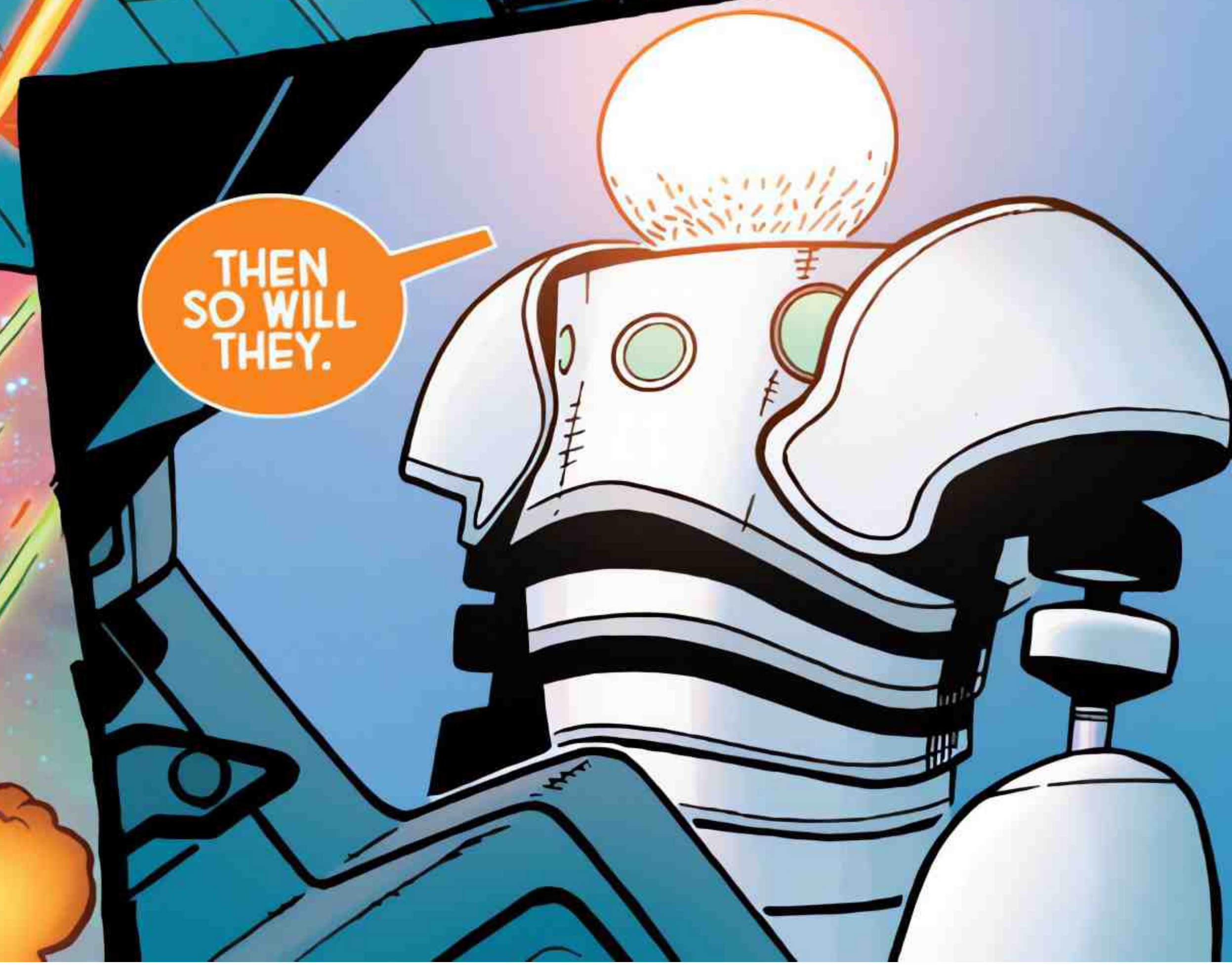
IT'S TOO LATE
TO TURN ME INTO
A **PEACEFUL CRAB**,
PETER QUILL!

NOW BE A
GOOD LITTLE HERO
AND WAIT UNTIL I'M
READY TO **TAKE**
YOUR HEAD OFF
TOO!



DAMMIT!

THIS IS
PETER QUILL--
THE STAR-LORD--
HAILING **WHITECAP**
COMMAND! I DON'T
KNOW IF YOU CAN EVEN
UNDERSTAND ME, BUT
THIS IS **NOT A DRILL!**
YOU'RE **ALL** ABOUT
TO DIE!



THEN
SO WILL
THEY.



LOOKS LIKE
→YAAAAAWN←
SELF-PRESERVATION
ISN'T A UNIVERSAL
TRAIT.

THEY ARE
CHOOSING TO DIE
AS WARRIORS.

ZEY SHOULD
HAVE CHOSEN
TO LIVE AZ
COWARDZ.

...IT IS
WHAT I HAVE
DONE.

SO, THESE
ARE THE FLARKIN'
IDIOTS I KEPT HEARIN'
ABOUT? THEY SURE
SEEM TO BE PRETTY
GOOD AT
EXPLODING!

HEY, QUILL,
WHO DO YOU
THINK'LL DIE FIRST
WHEN GROOTFALL
GETS HERE? US
OR THEM?

NO ONE IS
DYING!

WELL, ZAT IS
JUST PATENTLY
FALSE.

WE
CAN ONLY
HOPE.

ROCKET,
DO YOU SEE IT?
THROUGH THE CLOUD,
RIGHT THERE! THAT
SHADOW!

BUSY KEEPIN'
US ALIVE IN THE
BIGGEST BATTLE
THE FOLD'S EVER
SEEN, QUILL.

BANK UP,
BANK UP! YOU
GOTTA PULL UP NOW!
**HE'S RIGHT
THERE!!!**

HEY,
BUDDY.



FOR THE
LOVE OF GOD,
KRAKEEN!
RETREAT!

BACKWARD
HAS NEVER BEEN
MY DIRECTION.

AND MY
PEOPLE NEVER
HAD ANY USE
FOR GOD.

FOR
VICTORY!

FOR
SECTORS
UNITED!

FOR
THE FUTURE
OF THE--
ZKK--CH--

DON'T
WORRY,
PETER.

WE'LL
JOIN HIM VERY
SOON.



HELL NO.
WE'RE NOT
OUT OF THIS
FIGHT.

"WE DIDN'T COME
TO SAVE EITHER SIDE
OF THIS STUPID WAR."

WE
CAME FOR
GROOT.

YEAH? HOW'S
THAT GOIN',
EXACTLY? HE
DOESN'T EVEN
KNOW WE'RE
HERE!

SO LET'S
GET HIS DAMN
ATTENTION,
SHALL WE?

GUARDIANS,
TAKE YOUR
STATIONS!

**WE'RE
GOING
IN!**

NAV, GET ME A CLEAR SHOT TO THE NEAREST GROOTFALL.

I'M GOING TO NEED **ALL RESERVE POWER** TO FLIGHT CONTROL!

MORE POWER AIN'T GONNA HELP YOU **FLY BETTER**, IT'LL JUST MAKE YOU **CRASH FASTER**.

QUILL IS **ALWAYS CRASHING!** IT IS SIMPLY THAT HE SOMETIMES **MISSSES THE GROUND!**

"CRASHING'S NOT THE CONCERN! THE SHIP'S ALREADY CRAWLING WITH BODIES--AND THEY'RE **ALL GROOT!**"

"HULL INTEGRITY IS AT 70%. 40%. 5%?!"

THEY'RE IN THE HOUSE!

WELCOME HOME.



YES! DO YOU
FEEL THAT, GAMORA?
WE HAVE FOUND OUR
INEVITABLE END!

GOING DOWN
WITH A SWORD IN
MY HAND, FIRST TIME
ANYTHING'S FELT RIGHT
SINCE WE CAME TO
THIS DAMNED
PLACE.

BUT
WHAT IF I
DON'T WANT
TO DIE?!

THAT IS
THE GLORY OF
INEVITABILITY,
MANTIS!

THE
UNIVERSE
DOES NOT
CARE!

FOOSH



GROOT'S
GOT MANTIS
AND DRAX!

NEBULA, WE
NEED AN EXIT--
NOW. RUN THE
NUMBERS, DO YOUR
COMPUTER THING,
JUST GIVE US A
WAY OUT!

...I'M SORRY,
SISTER.

THERE'S
JUST NO
CHANCE.

NEBULA!!!

NEBULA!!!

NEBULA...

NEBULA...



SO
THIS WAS IT,
QUILL?!

YOUR **BIG**
PLAN TO SAVE
THE DAY?!

GET UP HERE,
ROCKET! THE
BIGGEST GROOT,
WE'RE ALMOST
TO HIM!

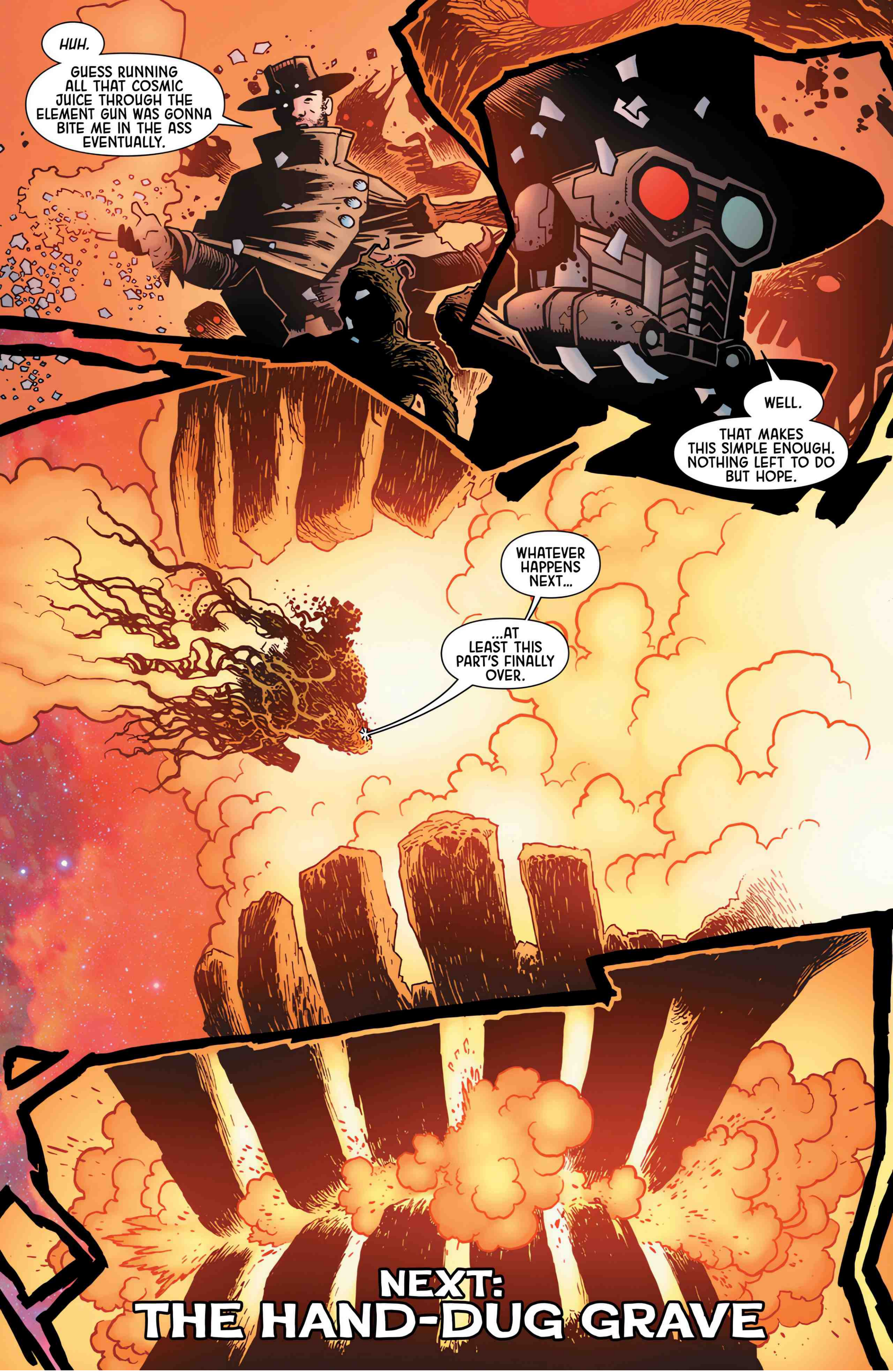
HE'S RIGHT
THERE. WE JUST
GOTTA KEEP THEM
OUT OF THE COCKPIT
LONG ENOUGH
TO--

QUILL.
NO. HE'S
GONE.

FLARK,
MAN, THEY'RE
ALL GONE.

I DIDN'T
TELL YA TA
SAVE ME.

IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN
BETTER TA DIE
ALONE.



HUH.

GUESS RUNNING
ALL THAT COSMIC
JUICE THROUGH THE
ELEMENT GUN WAS GONNA
BITE ME IN THE ASS
EVENTUALLY.

WELL.

THAT MAKES
THIS SIMPLE ENOUGH.
NOTHING LEFT TO DO
BUT HOPE.

WHATEVER
HAPPENS
NEXT...

...AT
LEAST THIS
PART'S FINALLY
OVER.

**NEXT:
THE HAND-DUG GRAVE**

NEXT: THE ORIGIN OF GROOTFALL!

One year ago, the Guardians were more than a team, they were the galaxy's SUPER HEROES! Now the Guardians are outlaws, guns for hire, roaming the frontier in hopes of stopping one of their own. How did the Guardians fall apart, and what changed Groot into the monster he is now? The untold story is finally revealed!



EMAIL US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM AND MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!

THE COLLECTOR'S COLLECTION.

AND WHAT
DO YOU HAVE
FOR ME?

IT'S A
CLOCK.

A CLOCK?
A CLOCK.

I HAVE--IN MY COLLECTION--
TRAPPED IN AMBER AND HELD
IN STASIS FROM THIS DAY
TO THE END OF ALL
TIME...

...YOUR
FAMILY. WHO
YOU LOST--

WHO WERE
TAKEN.

--WHO WERE
LOST TO YOU SIX
YEARS AGO. FOR SIX
YEARS, YOU HAVE SOUGHT
OUT SOMETHING FOR
WHICH YOU MIGHT
TRADE THEIR
FREEDOM.

YOU HAVE
COME TO ME TIME
AFTER TIME WITH
TRINKETS AND TRASH,
LOOKING TO BUY AND
BARTER. AND NOW
HERE YOU ARE AGAIN.
WITH...A CLOCK.

LOOK CLOSER,
COLLECTOR.

IT HAS SIX
HANDS. DO YOU
KNOW WHERE THIS
COMES FROM?

I'LL GIVE YOU
ONE OF THEM
FOR IT.

TWO. BUT
YOU KEEP THE
WIFE.

YOU DRIVE A
HARD BARGAIN,
BUT VERY
WELL...

...YOU HAVE
A DEAL.

GODS